

Safety Flash

Incident with property damage

Incident: A subcontractor struck a conduit leading from an electrical box to light poles. The electrical box was energized, but the circuit feeding the lights had been de-energized. RLI and the customer had located known utilities, and RLI had identified unknown utilities. Marked utilities had been reviewed with the subcontractor's engineer during a site walkthrough.

Possible contributing factors:

- RLI did not hold a pre-installation meeting with the subcontractor.
- The subcontractor did not participate in or hold a pre-task planning meeting before beginning work.
- Work began without a completed Notice of Excavation (NOE) form and the subcontractor did not know the NOE was required.
- RLI walked the site with the subcontractor's engineer to review known utilities, but the information was not shared with the subcontractor crew performing the work.
- The utility was marked on the curb because it was in a high-traffic area.
- There were no as-built drawings on site for the subcontractor crew to review.

Primary contributing factor:

- RLI did not hold a pre-installation meeting with the subcontractor.

Possible solutions:

- Disconnect all conduits and reconnect them when the project is completed.
- Make sure pre-installation meetings are held before work begins and pre-task planning sessions are held twice daily, with the people doing the hands-on work in attendance.
- Make sure everyone on site knows that a signed NOE is required for all excavations deeper than 6 inches – before work begins.
- Make sure walk-throughs include the people doing the hands-on work.
- Make sure as-built drawings are on site and easily accessible.

Action plan:

- An NOE form was provided to the subcontractor.
- The subcontractor began holding pre-task planning sessions twice a day.
- The superintendent and project manager immediately began ensuring that the people performing the work attend pre-installation meetings and walk-throughs.
- A copy of as-built drawings is on site.
- All remaining conduits were immediately disconnected and will be replaced/connected when sitework is complete.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Rick Wallace, Lima, 419/705-9170 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.